stronger stretching force will cause the bundles to slide past one another, like threads dipped in some sticky fluid. It is notable that the spinning of a thread which is designed to place the fibres in such a way that they can resist being drawn past each other is exactly what is done on an exceedingly minute scale in the structure of the fibre itself.

We now proceed to consider what has been done towards the application of x-ray methods of analysis to animal substances. The x-ray examination of cellulose has been pressed forward in the interests of the textile industries in order to obtain a better understanding of the properties of cotton and artificial silk, and of hair and wool. Here the problem is more difficult because animal fibres are complicated mixtures of many constituents. Enough, however, has been accomplished to show that apart from certain characteristic differences there is a great similarity in the general behaviour and construction of the two. We have the well known fact that the behaviour of these two classes of fibre under stretching forces is very much the same. The effect of moisture and of heat are in the main parallel. It has also proved possible to obtain x-ray pictures of single fibres of hair and wool, and these show the same characteristics as cellulose. There are obviously small bundles of arranged molecules. Sometimes the bundles show disorder of arrangement, but in general the stretching of the fibre is accompanied by changes in the picture which show an increasing alignment. In general x-ray diagrams show the same sort of changes where wool is stretched or wetted or chemically treated as appeared in the cellulose diagram, allowing for the greater complexity of the case. There is an immense amount of work yet to be done before each of the wool constituents can be examined as to its structure, but there is little doubt that the same kind of arrangement exists in wool as in cotton, and what is found in wool and hair will surely be found in nerve and muscle.

Thus the suggestion forces itself on the mind that one and the same principle is in constant use by Nature to form living tissues which have strength and resilience, but which may also be overstrained and finally broken. The adjustment of the measures employed is a striking feature of the scheme. Sir William Bragg, in closing, stated that we may justly say that we have now in our hands a method of analysis which has not only confirmed previous results in a novel manner but has opened up new ways for the study of living matter.

Men and Books

AN IMPERIAL TRAGEDY

FREDERICK III AND THE LETTERS OF THE EMPRESS

BY J. W. S. MCCULLOUGH, M.D., D.P.H.,

Toronto

The death of the Emperor Frederick III, of Germany, on June 15, 1888, was the culmination of a tragedy marked by consequences of a most disastrous nature, not only to his Imperial Majesty's native country but to the whole civilized world. The Emperor was a Liberal, with an Empress, the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria, clever, highly educated, and imbued with the democratic ideas of her native land. There seems no doubt that if he had been spared, the course of Germany might have been deflected from the warlike avenue into which she was drawn by the autocratic policies of Bismarck and the Ex-Kaiser, which finally were the chief causes of the late war, the German revolution, and the present republican form of government of Germany.

The Emperor, in 1887, was a fine upstanding man of fifty-six years. He had had an enviable record in the wars of 1862 against Denmark, of 1866 against Austria, and of 1870-71, when he was chief of staff in the war with France. He succeeded his nonagenarian father, William I, as Emperor in March, 1888. It was not until January of 1887 that the Crown Prince as he then was, showed any sign of departure from the excellent health he had hitherto enjoyed, and the purpose of this essay is not to discuss the political affairs of Germany but to uncover the history of the Emperor's illness, interest in which has been once more aroused by the publication last year of the hitherto *lost letters* of the Empress Frederick.

The Empress and her husband had enjoyed a brief reign of but 98 days, when the latter died. As remarked by Ludwig, when the Emperor was known to be dying, a cordon of soldiers was drawn around the Imperial palace and the order was given that "no one in the palace, including the doctors, is allowed to carry on any correspondence with outside . . . If any of the doctors attempt to leave the palace they will be arrested."

To the foregoing statement of Emil Ludwig, historian of Kaiser William II, is added the following respecting occurrences following the Emperor's death:—"It was as though a monarch had been murdered, and his hostile successor, long prepared, had seized upon newly-acquired authority; troops were assembled, armed guards set, the palace was in the military sense hermetically sealed. Anyone who wished to leave had to have a permit viséd by the new Kaiser's A.D.C." It was apparent that the youthful Kaiser had assumed full authority and that his relations with his mother, the late Empress, were uncordial to the point of cruelty.

For ten years after the death of the Emperor, the Empress had enjoyed good health though her distress at the coldness of her son, the Kaiser, the insulting attitude of the German authorities and of the Press, which always referred to her as "that Englishwoman," and the loss of friends, who were for their own comfort obliged to "sail with the wind," was very great.

During her life in Germany, to which she went as a bride at seventeen years of age, the Crown Princess had kept up a constant correspondence with Queen Victoria and other English friends, which was continued during the period of her reign and subsequently. In these letters she was accustomed freely to discuss political affairs, to speak of her happiness in her married life, and to comment upon the character of the future Kaiser, for whom her great love was apparent, and upon Bismarck, between whom and herself there was mutual antagonism.

About 1898 she suffered from what was apparently lumbago, but probably was some malignant disease of the spine, which caused her death after unspeakable agony in 1901. A few days before her death she was visited by the late King Edward VII, her eldest brother, and with the King came his Equerry and Secretary, Frederick Ponsonby, a friend of long standing. To Ponsonby the Empress expressed a wish that he would take her letters to England and opportunity only allowed her to say that the letters would be sent to his room at 1 p.m. Ponsonby sat up late writing and promptly at one, four stablemen entered his room and to his consternation deposited two corded boxes the size of portmanteaux, covered with waterproofing, and left without uttering a word. He had expected a packet of letters which could be concealed in his bag. How should he be able to get these two extraordinary boxes out of the palace without attracting suspicion? Ponsonby decided to affect no concealment. He labelled the boxes, "China with care" and "Books with care" and shoved them outside his door in the corridor. Next morning, talking with the Kaiser in the main entrance of the palace, he watched with some trepidation out of the corner of his eye the dispatch of the boxes with his luggage. They reached England in safety, were sent to his home at Windsor, and there remained for twenty-seven years, and now only that the character and actions of the Empress, which have become the subject of adverse criticism, should be known to the world are they published. One would like to have been around the corner when they were read by the ex-Kaiser.

Among other matters of exceeding interest conveyed by the letters is the account of the Emperor's illness of one year and a half, and the striking testimony of the Emperor and Empress to the ability and care of Sir Morell Mackenzie, the English specialist who had charge of the Emperor during the last year or so of his illness. As already pointed out, the Emperor had, up to 1887, enjoyed excellent health. He had gone through three hard campaigns; he was strong, and looked well. In January of that year he first began to suffer from hoarseness, and his physician-in-ordinary, Surgeon-General Wegner, soon realized that these symptoms were sufficiently serious to warrant consultation, so Dr. Gerhardt, Professor of Medicine at the University of Berlin, on March 6, diagnosed a small growth on the left vocal cord, which he, after failure to remove surgically, burned down with the galvano-cautery, which was used perhaps ten or more times. As neither this treatment nor a sojourn at Ems sufficed to remove the hoarseness, Von Bergmann, an eminent surgeon of Berlin, a Russian (probably a Jew), was called in, and, regarding the growth as malignant, gave the opinion that it should be removed by the surgical operation known as thyrotomy involving the splitting of the larynx. This course was objected to by Bismarck, the Chancellor, and by the Emperor William I, then in his 90th year and also in a precarious state of health, suffering keenly, as he did, from renal colic. Bismarck arranged for a further consultation, which was attended by Wegner, Gerhardt and Bergmann along with Schröder, Lauer, and Professor Tobold, a senior Berlin laryngologist. Their opinion was that cancer was present and that the operation proposed by Bergmann should be performed. When Bismarck read this report he determined that the best European advice should be procured, and at his instance the German doctors sent for Morell Mackenzie of London.

There has been much controversy as to the question of who instigated the calling in of Mackenzie, and it was commonly supposed that the Crown Princess (the future Empress), was responsible for the summons of the English laryngologist to the bedside of her stricken husband. "Her distrust of German therapeutics," according to Ludwig, "has come to be responsible for his tragic and untimely end." The foundation for this erroneous view is to be found in statements circulated in the German press at the time and the subsequent testimony of Dr. Henry Semon, who quotes the private diary of his father, the late Sir Felix Semon, a German laryngologist of London. According to this version, the Crown Princess asked Wegner who he thought was the greatest throat specialist. Wegner, in reply, pointed to Dr. Mackenzie's text book, which had been translated into German and prefaced by Sir Felix Semon, who paid a great tribute to Mackenzie's skill. The Crown Princess then, according to the Semon version, telegraphed to Queen Victoria and requested her to arrange for the attendance of the English surgeon, and the Queen sent Sir James Reid, her physician, to make the arrangement. In a letter to *The Times*, dated January 25, 1928, Dr. Henry Semon goes on to relate that his father's unpublished manuscript states that "When Reid had delivered his message Mackenzie showed him the cable he had received from the German physicians, which requested him to start immediately for Berlin."

Sir Felix Semon also adds that when the Crown Princess had read his preface to Mackenzie's book she commanded Wegner to press for a consultation with Mackenzie, and the result was the official telegram to Morell Mackenzie from the German doctors.

While under ordinary circumstances it would be nothing but natural that the wishes of the wife of such a distinguished patient would desire the best advice obtainable, the well-known preference of the Crown Princess for things English, and her antipathy to German doctors, to whose want of skill she attributed the paralyzed arm of her son, the future Kaiser, the statement that she was responsible for Mackenzie's attendance was, in the ultimate result of the death of her consort and the controversy between the doctors, utilized to fasten upon her blame for the death of the Emperor. But Sir Rennell Rodd shows that early in 1887, at a luncheon in the British Embassy attended by the Crown Prince and Bismarck, when the British Ambassador, Sir Edward Malet, suggested the possibility of obtaining another opinion, the Crown Princess expressed her ignorance of who were the best authorities, and that after luncheon Bismarck told the Ambassador that arrangements had been made for the British specialist to come to Berlin. Furthermore, in the official report of the illness of the Emperor Frederick, published in 1888, it is made clear that the name of Morell Mackenzie *was first put forward by Wegner and accepted by Gerhardt and Bergmann.* The files of the *British Medical Journal* for 1888 contain all the official reports, as well as full accounts of the Emperor's illness and form interesting reading. The essential point is, that, according to all versions, the first request to visit the Crown Prince received by Mackenzie came to him from the German doctors and *it was upon this that he acted.*

Mackenzie arrived in Berlin on the 20th of May, 1887, and the next day after examination of the distinguished patient, announced to the doctors that he was not sure the growth was cancer and would not express an opinion as to operation until a portion was submitted to microscopical examination. Accordingly, he removed a tiny portion which was submitted for examination to Professor Virchow, a man of European reputation as a pathologist. Virchow was unable on this and two other occasions to discover any sign of cancer, and from this point the views of the English and German doctors diverged. Bergmann and Gerhardt maintained that the clinical signs indicated cancer, Mackenzie could not agree until there was proof positive.

One can imagine the exciting situation. The German Emperor, William I, was already more than ninety years of age, in very indifferent health, and in the natural course of events could not for long sustain the burdens of sovereignty. The Crown Prince, his heir, would if he lived, succeed him. If the Prince were suffering from an incurable complaint would that render him incapable of exercising the power of the Crown? It was argued by many that the Crown Prince should be passed over in favour of his son, Prince William. Already the dread word "cancer" was being whispered far and wide, and it was certain that if the malady were pronounced malignant there would be those who would urge "that a sovereign who cannot speak should not rule." Rumours were current that the family laws of the Hohenzollerns barred the rule of an heir who suffered from an incurable disease, but this was denied by Bismarck. It was afterwards alleged that for this reason the Crown Princess was anxious that the Crown Prince's malady should not be diagnosed as cancer, and while she, no doubt, was desirous that her husband should live and reign, there is not a jot or tittle of evidence in favour of the slander. Mackenzie and the other doctors were given a free hand subject to the rightful wishes of the patient, and their opinions were unbiased and uninfluenced by the patient. All that the Crown Princess did, in fact, was what ninety women out of a hundred, English or German, would have done in her place, and that was to place her reliance in the specialist who gave the greatest hope for the complete recovery of the patient. The proposal to operate was abandoned after a favourable report upon a second portion of the growth by Virchow, not however without protests from Gerhardt and Bergmann. Gerhardt later alleged that during the operation for removal of a portion of the growth Mackenzie had injured the right vocal cord, and the latter was also accused of sending to Virchow a portion of the healthy right vocal cord. These accusations were, of course, strenuously denied by Mackenzie, and it is quite inconceivable that a man of Mackenzie's acknowledged skill and reputation should do either. Much of the difference of opinion over the Crown Prince's illness had its basis in the fact that medical science was at the time in a much more rudimentary stage than at present. The German doctors made a shrewd guess at the diagnosis. Mackenzie was cautious and desired proof. From this time forward Mackenzie and the German doctors were irremediably estranged, and Mackenzie wished to take the patient to England, a circumstance which coincided with the Crown Prince's determination to represent the Emperor at the jubilee of Queen Victoria which took place June 21, 1887.

As evidence of the German doctors' opinion Professor Gerhardt, on June 2, expressed himself to the Crown Princess as follows:—"I regard the matter with increasing anxiety. Where M. Mackenzie removed a small portion, it has grown again —the tumour is suppurating, etc. On the other side of the throat, the other vocal cord, which hitherto has remained healthy, is attacked—there is already a considerable amount of damage done. If Dr. Mackenzie cannot assist and cure it, there is no chance of recovery, save in the operation known as laryngotomy. It would have to be performed under far less favourable

conditions than would have been the case fourteen days ago. Therefore my only hope is that Dr. Mackenzie may be right in his opinion and that his treatment may be successful, for we have nothing else to suggest." All this was cold comfort for the Crown Princess, and by no means commendatory of Mackenzie. The Crown Princess, the German Emperor and Empress and Bismarck all knew of the divergence of opinion, and anyone of them might have supported Gerhardt and Bergmann and demanded an operation. However, they left it to the doctors. The Germans produced statistics to show that in 7 out of 10 cases of the kind an operation was successful; while Mackenzie, supported by Virchow's opinion as to the non-malignancy of the growth, believed he might be able to effect a cure in two months.

On the 8th of June Mackenzie removed another portion of the growth, and after examination Virchow reported, "In spite of the most careful examination no single portion was detected which has been pathologically changed sufficiently to make this worth mentioning . . . In any case there is nothing in them (portions submitted) that could arouse the suspicion of further and more serious disease." The Crown Prince was now feeling in excellent health, and the royal party journeyed to England, accompanied by Wegner and Landgraf (Professor Gerhardt's assistant) of whose professional ability Mackenzie had a very poor opinion. On June 21, the Crown Prince rode in the Jubilee cavalcade of thirty-two princes, "a towering Lohengrin-like figure, in the white uniform, silver breastplate, and eagle-crested helmet"—a tragic figure, outwardly the embodiment of princely grace and splendour, but inwardly conscious that if his malady was indeed cancer, his span of life was drawing to a close.

The next two months were spent at Norwood, then in the Isle of Wight and in Scotland, and during this period Dr. Mark Hovell, senior surgeon to the Throat Hospital, was called in consultation. Then, chiefly because of the clamour in Berlin and the failing health of the Emperor, the royal party left England and went to the Tyrol, accompanied by Dr. Hovell who was shortly afterwards joined by Major Schröder, Surgeon-in-Ordinary to the Crown Prince. Whilst in the Tyrol the Crown Prince's health seemed to improve, and in many journals, both German and British, Mackenzie was lauded as the man who had saved the Crown Prince from a dangerous and unnecessary operation. From the Tyrol the scene shifted to Venice where the weather was warmer, thence to Baveno, where the patient was seen by Mackenzie, who according to the Crown Princess, expressed himself to the effect that the patient "was getting on nicely, but said that he must avoid talking and cold and damp—if so, he may be quite well in three or four months."

In November the Crown Prince was moved to an Italian villa, the Villa Zirio at San Remo, where there were tragic events in his illness. The story of this sojourn is graphically told in the Memoirs of De Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of the London Times, who is very scathing in his report of the conduct of Prince William (the future Kaiser), whose attitude seemed to be that his father was doomed and that he, the Prince, was entitled to succeed his grandfather.

Within twenty-four hours after his arrival at San Remo the Crown Prince became much worse and Mackenzie was sent for and from November 6, 1887, until the end never left his patient. Mackenzie now appeared to realize that the disease was more serious than he had thought, and to the anxious enquiries from the Crown Prince if he thought the malady were cancer, replied:—"I am sorry to say, Sir, it looks very much like it, but it is impossible to be certain."

The consultation which now took place between Sir Morell Mackenzie, who, in the interval had been knighted by Queen Victoria, Professor Von Schrötter, Dr. Krause, and Dr. Morris Schmidt, who was sent by the Emperor, destroyed the last vestige of hope. As a result of this consultation the Crown Prince was given choice of total removal of the larynx or tracheotomy. He chose the latter. On November 12th the official German Gazette announced that "the disease is due to the existence of a malignant new growth of a carcinomatous character." The next day the Emperor summoned Gerhardt, Tobold, Schrötter, Lenthold, Morris Schmidt, and Landgraf to Berlin to answer two questions. To the first, as to whether in spite of the Crown Prince's refusal, the radical operation of the removal of the larynx should be advised, they replied that the patient's will must be decisive in view of the danger of the operation, and that no further attempt should be made to persuade him. To the second, as to why, when the operation had been abandoned in May and June, it was suggested again at so late a date, they replied that the responsibility for its non-performance until too late had been incurred by that physician, who had overlooked, nay, even denied, the increase of the growth. After considering this report, the Crown Prince again decided against the operation, but the onus of delay was placed on Mackenzie, and there was a storm of professional and public opinion against him.

All the world was now interested in the unusual event of an Emperor and his heir-apparent both on the threshold of death. The agonizing race with death had begun. The German press endeavoured to demonstrate to a public already receptive of such news that the Crown Prince would be sacrificed because of the mistake of an English doctor called in by the Crown Princess. German doctors who had been correct in their opinion had been deliberately set aside in favour of an incompetent foreigner. Prince William, hitherto in favour of Mackenzie, was not slow to reflect Berlin opinion, and arrived at San Remo

with Dr. Schmidt, apparently on the *qui vive* to his own early chances of succession. According to a letter from the Crown Princess to her mother, who had enquired "how Willy was at San Remo," the Crown Princess said "he was as rude, as disagreeable, and as impertinent to me as possible when he arrived, but I pitched into him with, I am afraid, considerable violence and he became quite nice and gentle and amiable (for him)." Not only did the Crown Princess suffer from the impertinence of Prince William (the future William II), but to add to her distress there arrived the second son, Prince Henry, who offensively announced to his father, the Crown Prince, that the Emperor had, without consulting him, deputed Prince William to sign all state papers while he was unable to do so.

There were strenuous efforts made to replace Mackenzie, Hovell, and Krause by other doctors. Bramann, Bergmann's assistant, arrived at San Remo to perform the operation of tracheotomy should it suddenly become necessary. All these proceedings were a continued source of distress to the already burdened wife, which was shown by her reference in the letters where she says, "Henry maintains that his papa is lost through the English doctors and me."

An illuminating letter in respect to Mackenzie is that by Lady Ponsonby, wife of Sir Henry, the Queen's Secretary, in December, 1887, wherein she says:—"I have just had a long visit from Baron Roggenbach, an old friend of the Prince, who tells me he was one of the first to be alarmed about the Crown Prince and who told me the history of the case from the beginning. Whatever his opinion of Mackenzie is *at home*, and it does not seem to be favourable, he thinks he has behaved honourably and straightforwardly here. He quite agrees with him that the operation at any time was out of the question, whether the evil was cancer or no, so that he (Mackenzie) was justified in saying, so far as evidence went at first, there was nothing to prove it malignant. He never disguised from the Crown Prince it might become so."

January and February of the New Year (1888) passed away and early in February, the disease having now been diagnosed as perichondritis, it was decided to insert a cannula into the patient's throat, so as to render the breathing somewhat easier. The operation of tracheotomy was successfully performed under chloroform by Bramann in the presence of Sir Morell, Drs. Hovell, Krause and Schröder. Towards the end of the month there was a consultation between Mackenzie, Bergmann, Schröder and Professor Kussmaul of Strassburg. There was a divergence of views communicated to the anxious Crown Princess. Bergmann said:—"He will never recover from the state he now is in! He can only rapidly get worse." Kussmaul declared the condition was cancer. Mackenzie said:—"The first pathologist in the world has found nothing of the kind! What I see in the larynx points in the opposite direction—both these things make it impossible for me to affirm that it is cancer. Cancer may be there, but I have no convincing evidence! I know more about the throat than these gentlemen who are, one a celebrated surgeon, the other a general physician who chiefly treats complaints of the stomach, and Virchow's microscopical examination seems to me more reliable than that of Bergmann, Bramann, Krause, and Schröder!"

So far Mackenzie was apparently on safe ground. Previous to his arrival no throat specialist had examined the patient. The German doctors were, no doubt, able men so far as their respective spheres of practice led them. They relied upon appearances, made a diagnosis of cancer, and resolved on an operation, of doubtful value even in cancer cases, whose mortality was high, and which even if successful would forever prevent the subject from again using his voice. Mackenzie, in his day, perhaps the highest authority in throat affections, came at the instigation of Prince Bismarck and on the advice of Wegner, one of the German doctors, and with the consent of the others. Not being satisfied that the growth was cancer he on three occasions had portions examined by an eminent pathologist who insisted on each occasion that no evidence of cancer could be found Mackenzie therefore refused to admit the presence of cancer until proof of its existence was forthcoming and it must be admitted that he played on the uncertainty of diagnosis for all it was worth. The fact remains that although the guess of the German doctors eventually proved to be right, Mackenzie based his opinion on scientific analysis which proved to be misleading.

On March 9, 1888, William I, the nonagenarian Emperor, died, and there began the brief ninety-eight days' reign of the Emperor and the Empress Frederick. They had won the race with death. The new Emperor was in his fifty-eighth year, and still, despite his terrible illness, a dominating figure and still mentally alert. His first act was to write out the announcement of his own succession as Frederick III. His next was to invest the Empress with the ribbon of the Black Eagle, the highest order within his gift. He then wrote for Sir Morell Mackenzie the words: "I thank you for having made me live long enough to recompense the valiant courage of my wife," proving that, whatever others might say, his confidence in the English surgeon was undiminished. This consolation, not unprized among doctors, remained until the end. Mackenzie always retained the confidence of the Emperor and his Consort.

The scene now shifts to Berlin, where, for State reasons, the presence of the new Emperor was imperative. The journey was uneventful and the Emperor Frederick energetically applied himself to his new labours. Two days sufficed to send him to bed, but in spite of this he continued bravely to carry on until the end. Among his first acts was the request that Bismarck continue as Chancellor, and the concluding

sentence of letter read "Not caring for the splendour of great deeds, nor striving for glory, I shall be satisfied if it be one day said of my rule that it was beneficial to my people, useful to my country, and a blessing to the Empire."

In April the health of the Emperor had undergone no improvement; indeed it had been aggravated by the hand of Bergmann. On the morning of the 12th the Emperor was seized with an attack of coughing, which slight adjustment of the cannula had relieved. At 8 a.m. it was decided by Mackenzie, Krause, and Wegner that a shorter tube might be better. The result was not satisfactory and Mackenzie proposed the use of a new pattern and asked Bergmann to be present. Bergmann took out the shorter cannula and inserted the new one. This started up the coughing and a severe hæmorrhage. Again Bergmann tried and the tube had to be withdrawn with the result of renewed coughing and streams of blood. Bramann was called in and inserted a moderate sized cannula with ease. Bergmann's roughness annoyed the Emperor, and as a result he retired from the case. Sir Morell and Hovell were much incensed by the resulting bitter and unfair attacks upon them in the German press and prepared an answer but on the advice of the Empress the statement was withheld for the time.

There continued to be trouble with William, the new Crown Prince, of whom the Empress, on May 12, wrote to the Queen, "William fancies himself completely the Emperor—and an absolute and autocratic one! He is in a coterie whose main endeavour is, as it were, to paralyze Fritz in every way."

The condition of the Emperor gradually became worse. He suffered severely though he pluckily stuck to duty till almost the last moment. He was worn to a skeleton, his hair became thin and his throat a shocking sight. He died at 11 o'clock on June 15, 1888. Immediately upon the Emperor's death, as already pointed out, his late palace became a sort of prison for the Empress, the doctors, and all her entourage, until on the following day the Empress fled to her farm at Bernstedt. It was as though she were the State's worst enemy; her ill treatment on the part of the new Kaiser, William II, her own son, and of Bismarck, was of the most atrocious character.

The flood of German animosity descended not only upon the head of the unfortunate Empress, but upon the English doctors and upon the memory of the late Emperor. The Bismarcks, father and son, heaped disparagements upon the dead man's name. Count Herbert Bismarck spoke of the Emperor Frederick as an "incubus" and an "ineffectual visionary." In conversation with the Prince of Wales (afterwards Edward VII) he bluntly suggested that "an Emperor who could not talk was unfit to reign." In the memoirs of the ex-Kaiser, who eventually suffered the extreme humiliation of defeat and exile at the hands of the Allied Armies, he says:—"The tragic element for me in the matter of Bismarck lay in the fact that I became the successor of my grandfather,—in other words that, to a certain extent, I skipped a generation." It would have been a happy thing for Germany, nay, for the entire world, had a generation skipped him.

Bismarck now let it definitely be known that it was his opinion that had the German doctors been entrusted with the care of the late Emperor, events might have had a happier sequence. Sir Morell Mackenzie was abused far and wide, and the main indictment in that abuse was that he had been selected by "that Englishwoman" the Empress Frederick. Bismarck conveniently forgot that it was at his suggestion the English doctor was brought in. There were on the one side the assertions of the German doctors that they alone were right, that their diagnosis had been confirmed, and that the treatment of the case, taken out of their hands, was bungled by Mackenzie. On the other, there was a statement by Mackenzie and Hovell of the clinical history of the case, including Mackenzie's official report presented to Bismarck at his request. All these reports, as well as that of the post-mortem, are published in the issues of the *British Medical Journal* of 1888. The controversy was acute and showed on both sides not a little of personal animosity. Perhaps the best and fairest summary of the situation may be gleaned from an editorial in the *British Medical Journal* of June 23, 1888. After commenting on the tragic illness of the late German Emperor and his heroic submission to the inevitable, the article disclaims any intention to discuss the political aspects of the situation; it confines itself to the medical side of the question.

While the disease of the Emperor was at an early date judged by the German doctors to be malignant, the *Journal* judges that their opinion was in part a suspicion, bred by the over-anxiety engendered by the transcendant importance of the case rather than a logical conclusion drawn from the observed facts. "It is inevitable," says the article, "that regret should now be felt by many that an operation which offered the only chance of eradicating the disease was not attempted when possibly there was yet time; but taking all the circumstances into account, it is difficult to see how any other course could properly have been adopted than that which was actually chosen." The diagnosis was at best doubtful, while the immediate risk was certain, and the prospect of a permanent cure, if the suspicion as to the nature of the disease proved to be well-founded, was very slight. The illustrious patient had made up his mind not to submit to any operation that might shorten his life or destroy his voice. This decision, made independently of medical advice, was no doubt strengthened by the negative results of Sir Morell Mackenzie's clinical and of Professor Virchow's pathological examinations.

At a later period, when the worst fears seemed

to be confirmed, there were still elements of uncertainty. The visible healing of ulcerated surfaces, the widespread inflammation, the exfoliation of cartilage and the general predominance of necrotic processes over the formation of new growth, continued to make up a clinical picture very unlike ordinary cancer of the larynx. The microscopic evidence was differently interpreted by different authorities.

Even in the lowliest patient the expediency of operation, which may prove more rapidly fatal than the disease, is not to be determined from the surgical standpoint. In the case of the Emperor there were other considerations which he himself looked upon as of far greater importance and on these, rather than on a regard for his own ultimate recovery, he, with a full knowledge of what he was doing, decided to take his stand. From this view it is sufficient to justify the course adopted if it can be said that it was not positively unsurgical. At the time the results of such operations were ghastly. Such an experiment would have been of the rashest kind. The "expectant" treatment was adopted in accordance with the expressed wish of the patient. It is no secret that the result was considered by those most directly interested—including the Emperor himself—fully to justify the course that was pursued.

The *Journal*, while deploring the professional squabble that ensued, expressed itself confident that all did, or tried to do, what they believed best in the interest of the patient and urged since the medical profession is the most truly cosmopolitan of human institutions that the unseemly disputes should be buried in the grave of the illustrious patient, who was, above everything, a lover of peace.

Association Notes

BRITISH AND CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Winnipeg, August 26-27-28 and 29, 1930

Special Tours

A NUMBER of tours have been arranged in connection with the forthcoming visit of the British Medical Association to Canada, which will enable the members from overseas to make short visits to some of the chief cities in this country, and, also to make the acquaintance of the Great Lakes. The schedules are given herewith. Tours "A," "B," and "C" are to be taken on the way to Winnipeg, starting from the port of arrival, Montreal, or Quebec. Tour "D" is a special tour to the Maritime Provinces, and is to be taken after the meeting in Winnipeg, starting from Montreal. In each case the cost of the Tour is given. The charges include all reasonable outlay (other than personal expenses for wines, liquors, and such creature comforts) but do not cover the expenses of the four or five days of the meeting in Winnipeg. If Tourist Third Cabin be selected there will be a reduction of £15.7s., or, if Third Class, £25.10s., on Tours "A," "B," and "C."

TOUR "A"

PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR SHORT TRIP—28 DAYS

Arr.	Montreal		p.m.	Fri.	Aug.	22	C.P.SS.	Motor to Windsor Hotel. Motor drive around city.
		(Montreal Sat. Aug. 23)						
Lv.	Montreal	10:15	p.m.	Sat.	Aug	23	C.P.R.(1)	
		AT FORT WILLIAM JOINS WITH OTHER TOUR "B" WHICH ARRIVES ON GREAT LAKES' STEAMER, MORNING OF AUGUST 25th:						As an alternative we suggest a stop over of 3 hours to drive around Port Arthur and Ft. William, thence by special train to Winnipeg.
Arr.	Winnipeg	8:45	p.m.	Mon.	Aug.	25	C.P.R. Spl.	